

COMMEMORATING WORLD MALARIA DAY AND THE WORK OF JHPIEGO

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize World Malaria Day.

Every 30 seconds, a child dies from malaria. More than 1 million people die of malaria every year, mostly infants, young children and pregnant women and most of them in Africa. Approximately 40 percent of the world's population, mostly those living in the world's poorest countries, is at risk of malaria. Every year, more than 500 million people become severely ill with malaria. Since the 1970s, significant investments have demonstrated that malaria control is working, and given hope for preventing the 1 million deaths caused by malaria each year. With the advent of new tactics, elimination and, ultimately, eradication of malaria may be possible. Because malaria is a massive global scourge and a medically complex disease, the pathway to eradication is a long one. Achieving eradication will depend on carefully coordinated, balanced efforts to build upon malaria control and elimination programs. Building a pathway to eradication will take time, but it is possible if all stakeholders collaborate today to prevent malaria deaths in Africa and elsewhere. Now is the time to begin charting the course.

Organizations like Jhpiego, an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University, reach across borders to fight a disease that has no borders. Jhpiego is working to combat the devastating effects of malaria by bringing innovative approaches and putting research to practice to improve the health of women and families throughout the world. For example, in Nigeria, it is preparing community volunteers in remote areas to extend malaria services to pregnant women who are not in contact with a formal healthcare system. The volunteers are trained to educate pregnant women on the steps necessary to prevent malaria. Additionally, the workers also distribute preventative medicine and insecticide-treated bednets. Once rolled out to full scale, this community based intervention will help break down some of the barriers to high-quality healthcare for the world's most vulnerable populations.

Jhpiego is a leader in developing innovations that break down the barriers and build more sustainable local health care systems globally. Jhpiego works in 12 African countries to support program implementation for malaria in pregnancy (MIP) prevention and case management.

TRIBUTE OF MR. AND MRS SHASHI AND PRIYA VASWANI

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madame Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. and Mrs. Shashi and Priya Vaswani for their induction in the 2008 Laredo Business Hall of Fame, and for their incredible dedication to the youth in the City of Laredo, Texas.

Shashi came to Laredo from Canada with his family in 1981 as a high school sophomore, and married his wife, Priya, in 1987. They lived and worked in the Caribbean and the Rio Grande Valley before moving back to Laredo in the early 1990s. Shashi and Priya opened About Time, a video arcade, in the 1990s. In 2004, they were able to open a La Quinta Inn and Suites, which allowed them to use a part of their profits to fulfill their dream of establishing the Laredo Heat soccer franchise. The Heat Youth association now has 28 teams playing in Laredo, and this interest in soccer as a physical activity would not have happened if not for the Vaswanis.

Shashi and Priya plan to fund improvements to Texas A&M International University's two soccer fields with the goal of making the fields the home base for future Laredo Heat games. They strongly believe in the value of physical activity as a complement to the full education of the youth in Laredo. They have learned the value of hard work and sacrifice and have stressed their belief in the importance of a college degree to young soccer players. This couple has admirably served the community of Laredo, Texas, through their business entrepreneurship and their work with the youth in Laredo. For their dedication and hard work in making Laredo a better place for children in exercising their physical talents, they will be honored by the Junior Achievement League through their induction into the 2008 Business Hall of Fame.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication of Mr. and Mrs. Shashi and Priya Vaswani to the City of Laredo.

CONGRATULATING BEDINGTON RURITAN CLUB'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a civic organization in my district which will celebrate its 50th anniversary on May 6, 2008.

The Bedington Ruritan Club located in Berkeley County, WV, started on April 16, 1958 under the guidance of the nearby Marlowe Ruritan Club.

For half a century now, the Bedington Ruritan Club has served the citizens of the Bedington area community. The club takes on many civic projects including picking up litter on nearby roadways, sponsoring an essay contest and contributing to Bedington Elementary and Potomack Intermediate Schools, maintaining the "Light Ceremony" in Scrabble, and holding fundraisers for various community projects.

The Bedington Ruritan Club building is located on Route 11 North and once a month on Saturday's you can find the Ruritan members serving some of the best BBQ chicken in Berkeley County!

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the Bedington Ruritan Club for 50 years of civic engagement and service. It is an honor to represent such a dedicated citizenry in West Virginia's eastern panhandle.

RECOGNITION OF WEST VIRGINIA'S ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AS BEST IN THE NATION

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize West Virginia's Army National Guard for earning a Special Category "First Place" award in the prestigious Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) competition.

West Virginia scored highest among 28 states and territories that entered this year's contest. The award recognizes performance excellence in business process improvement, individual and corporate innovation, and dedication to providing support to soldiers and families.

Our heroic men and women in uniform are never far from my thoughts. They are our Nation's consistent example of valor and courage. West Virginia's Army National Guard performance illustrates those qualities in the ACOE competition, during which they were recognized for having a strong strategic planning process, communication that flowed well throughout all levels of the organization, and a customer-driven focus that sought to create value and promote personal learning and social responsibility.

This award reflects the hard work and dedication of the men and women not only of the West Virginia Army National Guard, but also of every family member and friend that stands behind them. It is important to remember that our brave men and women have given so much and have expected so little in return. I am proud to take this moment to recognize the excellence of the West Virginia Army National Guard in all that they do to keep us safe from harm.

Our Armed Forces have paid the debt for the freedom we enjoy today, and I will continue, as I have in the past, to do everything I can to honor their sacrifices and service. Our veterans, just as our soldiers today, remain foremost in the thoughts and minds of Southern West Virginians, and I will continue to devote my all to those who wear or have worn America's uniform.

SBIR/STTR REAUTHORIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5819) to amend the Small Business Act to improve the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program, and for other purposes:

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Chairman. It is with some reservation that I rise in favor of H.R. 5819, a bill to reauthorize the SBIR and STTR program.

I strongly support these programs which give seed money to help small businesses advance innovative research ideas. They are engines of job growth and entrepreneurship that have produced dynamic inventions with a

broad array of commercial applications. I am pleased that this measure adds energy, climate change, and rare diseases as eligible topics for projects funded through SBIR awards. These additions demonstrate the broad horizon of challenges that dynamic small businesses around the country can help tackle.

I do have concerns, however, about a change made by this bill to allow small businesses that are majority-owned by venture capital investors to participate in the program. While I recognize the value in expanding the number and quality of applicants to the SBIR and STTR grant programs, I would not want to see these changes have the unintended result of skewing the grant programs toward companies with venture capital support.

There are many companies that do valuable R&D work, but have not been attractive to or interested in venture capitalist investment. In fact, it is often these companies that are a particularly good fit for the SBIR and STTR programs, which provide grants in the early conceptual stages to help small businesses get their products off the ground. Although the increased funding authorized for the programs will hopefully see more projects funded overall, it would be troubling to see favoritism for projects because they have a venture capital "stamp of approval".

It is important that this bill only authorizes the program for 2 years so that Congress will be able to closely examine how these changes are implemented. If necessary, we will have the opportunity to make further adjustments to prevent deserving applicants without venture capital funding from being marginalized in the SBIR and STTR application process.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARMY
SPECIALIST JACOB J. FAIRBANKS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise to remember and honor the life and courage of U.S. Army Specialist Jacob J. Fairbanks. This 22-year-old native of St. Paul, Minnesota, died in Baghdad on April 9, 2008.

Specialist Fairbanks joined the Army in 2004 after graduating from Johnson High School, where he was a member of the Junior ROTC. His second deployment to Iraq began last October for a tour of duty as a field artilleryman. He was assigned to B Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Fairbanks served his nation and his fellow soldiers with honor and courage. His commitment to this noble service earned him the Army Commendation Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbon. He was a proud member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and will be remembered as an outgoing man, dedicated to his family.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Specialist Fairbanks. He is a Minnesotan and American hero. His desire to serve his nation is an inspiration to his com-

munity. Specialist Fairbanks' wife Dwan, daughter Kayla, stepchildren Alexander, Katelin, and David, his mother Janette, father Steve, stepfather Jeff, his many friends, and his comrades in Iraq have my deepest sympathies for their profound loss.

TRIBUTE TO ELKINS HIGH SCHOOL

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, on May 3-5, 2008, more than 1,200 students from across the country will visit Washington, D.C. to take part in the national finals of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, the most extensive educational program in the country developed to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

I am proud to announce that a class from Elkins High School will represent the State of Texas at this prestigious national event. These outstanding students, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won their statewide competition and earned the chance to come to our Nation's capital and compete at the national level.

While in Washington, the students will participate in a three-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which they "testify" before a panel of judges. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. It is important to note that independent studies of the We the People program indicate that alumni of this nationally acclaimed program display a greater political tolerance and commitment to the principles and values of the Constitution and Bill of Rights than do students using traditional textbooks and approaches.

I am pleased to support such an outstanding program that continues to produce an enlightened and responsible citizenry. Madam Speaker, the names of these outstanding students from Elkins High School are: Krystal Castillo, Andrea Cavazos, Deborah Choate, Andrew Cockroft, Lucy Eiler, Jimmy Guerrero, Josh Hanks, Lara Hogue, Nick Johnson, Tiffany Kell, Curtis Kelso, D.J. Kinneman, Matt Macko, Colton Mendez, Jonny Murthy, Sola Oyewuwo, Tej Pandya, Bryan Philpott, Justina Rodriguez, Deepa Sabu, Nick Shipman, Pia Siaotong, Ivette Soto, Achal Upadhyaya, Courtney Williams, Angela Wu, and Arif Yusuf.

I also wish to commend the teacher of the class, Marilyn Ellington, who is responsible for preparing these young constitutional experts for the national finals. Assisting Mrs. Ellington is her colleague Jan Arrington and former students Emily Lee, Kelsey Smith, and Masha Sharf. Also worthy of special recognition is Jan Miller, the State coordinator, who is among those responsible for implementing the We the People program in my State. I congratulate these students on their exceptional achievement at the We the People national finals.

TRIBUTE TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF SOUTHFIELD

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the City of Southfield, Michigan, on the 50th anniversary of its incorporation as a city.

Southfield's city leaders have coined the phrase "center of it all" to describe this diverse community situated in the center of metro-Detroit that has grown to the 13th largest city in the State of Michigan.

The residents of Southfield are what has always made this community strong and independent. For example, 17 days after the area was designated as "Ossewa Township" on July 12, 1830, citizens petitioned the State to change the name to Southfield. And in the 1950s, a group of Southfield Township residents formed the "Save Our Southfield" committee and lent their own money to the group's treasury. This group promoted the incorporation of Southfield and financed the filing for incorporation. Southfield became a city on April 28, 1958.

Southfield has grown from a rural farming community to a premier business and residential address in Michigan. This modern city of beautiful homes and golden skyscrapers has become home to nearly 80,000 residents. Their 26 million square feet of office space brings the city's daytime population to more than 175,000, making Southfield one of the leading business centers in Michigan and the Midwest Region.

Southfield is home to leading manufacturers and other diverse businesses, strong educational institutions, innovative health care institutions, strong community organizations, and a vibrant faith community. It also retracts a feeling of warmth and closeness within its neighborhoods.

I am pleased to have lived in Southfield during a time of transformation of city leadership and institutions which are an increasing representative of the diversity of this wonderful community. I have also been pleased to represent the residents of Southfield since I came to Congress.

As Mayor Brenda Lawrence and other elected officials join the citizens of this exceptional city to celebrate their golden jubilee, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating its residents on its 50th year. Let this be the opportunity to pay tribute to the history of Southfield and re-commit ourselves to a prosperous and progressive future.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF STAFF SERGEANT
KEITH MATTHEW MAUPIN

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness and deep respect that I